

## CLAIMS

1. A ratchet wrench comprising a housing having a first annular holding portion and a second annular holding portion spaced from each other, a shank having a base portion and an engaging portion and disposed between said first and second annular holding portions, and a spring for imparting friction to said shank and for urging the shank toward said second annular holding portion, wherein a friction member formed of a sintered copper alloy is interposed between said base portion of said shank and said second annular holding portion.

2. A ratchet wrench according to claim 1, wherein a washer is disposed between said shank and said spring, said washer being formed of a sintered copper alloy.

3. A ratchet wrench according to claim 1, wherein a pin is fixed near said engaging portion of said shank and a guide bushing is disposed between said pin and said spring, said guide bushing being formed of a sintered copper alloy.

4. A ratchet wrench according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein said sintered copper alloy is dotted with a refractory metal.

5. A ratchet wrench according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein said sintered copper alloy is dotted with a ceramic material in porous voids.

6. A ratchet wrench according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein said sintered copper alloy is dotted with a synthetic resin material in porous voids.

7. A ratchet wrench comprising a housing having a first annular holding portion and a second annular holding portion spaced from each other, a shank having a base portion and an engaging portion and disposed between said first and second annular holding portions, and a spring for

imparting friction to said shank and for urging the shank toward said second annular holding portion, wherein a film of a sintered copper alloy is formed on at least one of a surface of contact of said shank with said second annular holding portion or a surface of contact of said second annular holding portion with said shank.

8. A ratchet wrench according to claim 7, wherein a washer is disposed between said shank and said spring, said washer being formed of a sintered copper alloy.

9. A ratchet wrench according to claim 7, wherein a pin is fixed near said engaging portion of said shank and a guide bushing is disposed between said pin and said spring, said guide bushing being formed of a sintered copper alloy.

10. A ratchet wrench according to any of claims 7 to 9, wherein said sintered copper alloy is dotted with a refractory metal.

11. A ratchet wrench according to any of claims 7 to 9, wherein said sintered copper alloy is dotted with a ceramic material in porous voids.

12. A ratchet wrench according to any of claims 7 to 9, wherein said sintered copper alloy is dotted with a synthetic resin material in porous voids.